(b) whether short services of small aircrafts within the State of Tripura connecting important towns are planned to be introduced;

(c) whether a network of short services of aircraft connecting important cities within the north-east region has also been contemplated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports at Kamalpur and Kailashahar belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has no plan, at present, to upgrade these airports as no airlines has requested for operation of their scheduled flights through these airports. No airport exists at Dharmanagar.

(b) At present, a number of scheduled flights of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air with B-737, A-320 and ATR-42 type aircraft are available from Kolkata, Guwahati and Silchar to Agartala in the State of Tripura. Additional flights are also provided by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air from Agartala from time to time as per traffic demand.

(c) and (d) Alliance Air has provided air services with ATR-42 aircraft to link Guwahati with Agartala, Lilabari, Silchar, Aizwal and Dimapur, Kolkata with Aizwal, Shillong, Agartala, Dimapur and Silchar and Silchar with Agartala in the North East Region (NER). However, airlines are free to operate their services to any specific places in India including NER depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of the route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Development of International Airports

3255. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a second international airport in the vicinity of New Delhi on Agra-Noida Express way;

(b) if so, by when work on development of this airport is likely to commence; and

(c) the other places where international airports are proposed to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Uttar Pradesh Government has a proposal to set up an airport at a site, which is located at 72 kms. from

Delhi (IGI) Airport. The site has been found technically suitable for an airport.

(b) Procedural requirements envisaged in the Policy on Airport Infrastructure 1997, are required to be completed before the proposal is considered by Government of India for approval.

(c) Government has approved construction of new international airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore, Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Mopa in Goa.

Improvement of Runways at Kangra and Pant Nagar Airports

3256. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: the details of the steps being taken to improve and extend the runways at Kangra Airport (Himachal Pradesh) and Pant Nagar Airport (Uttaranchal)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Runway at Kangra Airport (Himachal Pradesh) has recently been extended from 3900 feet to 4500 feet. There is no proposal at present to extend the existing runway at Pant Nagar Airport (Uttaranchal). This airport has only casual flights and no scheduled operations, at present.

Profit earned by special flight to South Africa

3257. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India earned any profit from the special Cricket World Cup flight to South Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air India incurred a cash loss of approximately Rs. 15 lakhs on the operation of the special flight but derived the advantage of considerable publicity.